

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

a shaft having open proximal and distal ends defining a lumen therethrough;

an inflatable bladder disposed at the distal end of the shaft and in fluid communication with the lumen, the inflatable bladder upon inflation having a non-uniform shape selected from the group consisting of: eccentric, conical, and wedge-shaped; and

~~a plurality of filaments disposed within an interior of the inflatable bladder, the plurality of filaments defining at least in part the shape of the inflated inflatable member; and~~

a cannula having an opening at a proximal end portion, an opening at a distal end portion, and defining a passage therethrough, ~~the passage configured to receive the shaft and deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue, the inflatable bladder configured to separate adjacent layers of tissue when the inflatable bladder is inflated, thereby defining a working space~~ the shaft and the inflatable bladder being at least partially disposed within the passage prior to inflation and axially movable therethrough, at least a portion of the inflatable bladder being disposed externally of the passage and adjacent tissue following the inflation thereof such that subsequent axial movement of the shaft defines a working space between the adjacent layers of tissue.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder does not substantially stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at pressures from about 10 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 100 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the shaft is rigid.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claims 21-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein each filament of the plurality of filaments is U-shaped.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein each filament of the plurality of filaments is wedge-shaped.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein axial movement of the inflated inflatable bladder separates adjacent layers of tissue, thereby defining the working space.

Claim 30 (New): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder is configured and dimensioned to separate adjacent layers of tissue when the inflatable bladder is inflated.